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A History of Spain. From the Earliest Times to the Death of Ferdinand the Catholic. By ULICK RALPH BURKE, M.A. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1895. — 2 vols.: xx, 384; viii, 360 pp.

A good general history of Spain in the middle ages has long been needed. The work of Dunham, excellent in its day, has for many years been out of date: and, so far as I know, the results of the epoch-making researches of Dozy have not hitherto been generally accessible to the English reader. This deficiency in our historical literature Mr. Burke has made a serious and scholarly, and on the whole a successful, attempt to supply.

The two chief shortcomings of the work are the inadequate treatment of political institutions and the failure to make fuller use of the work of German scholars on the different periods. Dozy and Gayangos have been the author's guides for the Moorish history, and they are, of course, indispensable; but he could hardly have failed to derive much of value from August Müller's *Der Islam im Morgen- und Abendland*. Mr. Burke's treatment of the Moorish civilization of Spain and the part it played in the education of Europe is too brief. From Müller's *Islam*, Haeser's *Lehrbuch der Geschichte der Medizin* and Gröber's *Grundriss der Romanischen Philologie*, precise illustrations of the service rendered by Arabic science to European culture could have been obtained, and definite facts could thus have been substituted for the vague generalities with which the English reader has usually to be content. To the different phases of the more purely Spanish civilization Mr. Burke has devoted several very interesting dissertations, — architecture, music, literature and amusements all coming in for generous treatment.

The arrangement of the volumes is partly topical and partly chronological, and the narrative becomes detailed only with the period of Ferdinand and Isabella, which occupies about two-sevenths of the whole. The author approached his subject in a spirit that was manifestly honest and judicial, and he apparently spared no pains to get at the facts. The untimely death of Mr. Burke last summer deprives us of the hope that his work would be continued to cover the reigns of Charles V and Philip II. It is, however, much to be hoped that the success of the volumes that have already appeared will stimulate the publishers to issue a cheaper edition.

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